

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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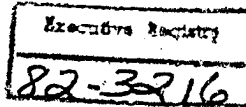
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Remarks:

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✓ Executive Secretary
5/28/02
Date

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27 May 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Vietnamese Labor

1. I would appreciate it if you would take a close look at this package of papers.

2. Early in April the Wall Street Journal ran an editorial on what is called "The Vietnamese Gulag," charging "slave" and "forced" labor. Six weeks later the NID (18 May) ran a piece called "Views of Vietnamese Labor," reporting that a largely voluntary program by Hanoi had gained popularity with young Vietnamese. They were working in Siberia, it said, but the "volunteers are said to welcome such jobs as a way to make more money and evade military service." It goes on to say that 60% of the "more money" will be deducted to help pay Vietnam's sizable financial debt to the USSR.

3. Scanning through these reports, there seem to be suggestions that these may be drafted in the army first; that the weather is so cold and the facilities so meager there is great difficulty getting the workers to go there; and that the prospect of being drafted into the army and then sent to Siberia has led to increased draft evasion. In short, is the NID piece a fair reflection of the reporting that we have on this phenomenon?


William J. Casey

Attachments
as stated

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